

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 21, 2008

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 24, 2008

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2007–08 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2896

Introduced by Assembly Member Lieber
*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Carter, DeSaulnier, Galgiani,
Garrick, Horton, and Huff)*

February 22, 2008

An act to add Section 5101.1 to the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2896, as amended, Lieber. Vehicles: special license plates.

Under existing law, the Department of Motor Vehicles issues environmental and other special license plates. The issuance of some of those license plates is subject to additional fees.

This bill would authorize a person who is a family member, as the bill would define that term, of a member of the Armed Forces who was killed while serving on active duty in the military to apply for special license plates, subject to additional fees and certain conditions. The special license plates would contain a gold star and the words "Gold Star Family."

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 5101.1 is added to the Vehicle Code, to
2 read:

1 5101.1. (a) A person otherwise eligible under this article who
2 is a family member of a member of the Armed Forces who was
3 killed while serving on active duty in the military may apply for
4 special license plates issued for a vehicle under this article.

5 (b) The applicant shall provide a death certificate issued by the
6 Armed Forces for the person *who was* killed while serving on
7 active duty in the military, and shall by proof satisfactory to the
8 department show that he or she is a family member of that person.

9 (c) Special license plates issued pursuant to this section shall
10 contain a gold star and the words “Gold Star Family.” The
11 Department of the California Highway Patrol and the Department
12 of Motor Vehicles shall have the opportunity to review the design
13 of the plates for visibility and legibility.

14 (d) Sections 5106 and 5108 apply to this section.

15 (e) Upon the death of a person issued special license plates
16 pursuant to this section, the special license plates shall be
17 transferred to the surviving spouse, if he or she requests, or shall
18 be returned to the department within 60 days after the death of the
19 plateholder or upon the expiration of the vehicle registration,
20 whichever occurs first.

21 (f) For the purposes of this section, “family member” means all
22 of the following:

- 23 (1) Widow.
- 24 (2) Widower.
- 25 (3) Biological parent.
- 26 (4) Adoptive parent.
- 27 (5) Stepparent.
- 28 (6) Foster parent in loco parentis.
- 29 (7) Biological child.
- 30 (8) Adoptive child.
- 31 (9) Stepchild.
- 32 (10) Sibling.
- 33 (11) ~~Half-sibling~~ *Half sibling*.